

SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT

TOPIC Mahlwinkel Airfield

50X1-HUM

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

50X1-HUM

DATE OF CONTENT

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED

13 June 1952

REFERENCES

PAGES 2

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

to CIA

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1. On 5 May 1952, [] an airfield was under construction about 2 km southeast of Mahlwinkel. Besides Soviet soldiers, German workers were employed there in grading work. Narrow-gauge field railways and dredgers were being used. No brick buildings were observed either completed or under construction. Some low wooden buildings and tents which were occupied by 80 to 100 Soviet soldiers were located on the southern edge of the field. Most of the materiel arrived in Mahlwinkel by rail and from there was trucked to the field. 50X1-HUM
2. On 15 May, [] the improvised airfield which was under construction. The construction project was designated as Number 41. The cleared area had a length of 2.8 km and a width of 500 meters. It is planned to grade this strip and to sow it with grass. Hardstands are to be constructed. It has not been decided whether the planned HQ quarters are to be built. The Russians were quartered in an improved hunting hut. The installation of electrical equipment was performed by the Magdeburg VEM nationalized plant for electric machines. A total of 174 high poles had arrived. The field is to be completed by July or August 1952.
3. After the field was cleared, it was to be covered with a layer of humus for the growing of grass. Since there was not enough humus in the immediate vicinity, it was planned to procure 60,000 cubic meters of molding sand at the Tangermunde foundry. As this sand did not contain enough phosphoretted nitrogen for grass, nitrogen was to be added to the sand either in Mahlwinkel or at the airfield. The required nitrogen was to be stored in a shed which was to be built in Mahlwinkel. Work started on the laying of an 8-km narrow-gauge field railway track on which the molding sand was to be transported to the field.
4. Grading work was to be done by the Russians who were quartered in the improved hunting hut. Thus, it was hoped to lower the construction costs. The Soviet soldiers were equipped with six Studebaker trucks. Captain Smyrnov (fnu) was in charge of construction work at the field. The Soviet construction superintendent was Captain Laukhin (fnu). A total of 260 workers were employed at the field. The estimate of costs amounted to 4.5 million eastmarks; yet only 1.8 million eastmarks were allotted. In order to make up for this deficiency, the construction staff in Werder ordered that Soviet soldiers were to be employed for grading.

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

5. On 13 May, the transportation of timber from the airfield still continued. Two motor-driven stump grubbers were employed. The twigs were being burnt. The telephone line was completed from Muhlwinkel as far as to a point near the low wooden buildings. Posters warned persons not to enter the area, and the Volkspolizei guarded the field. *

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Comment. The report confirms and supplements previous information on the construction of a new airfield near Muhlwinkel. For location of construction project, see Annex [redacted]

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Captain Smyrnov is probably a member of the Soviet construction staff in Werder, and Captain Laukhin is probably the chief of the Soviet construction unit which is employed at the field.

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